











The Maine, Doomed to Be a Money-Making Exhibit, Saved to the Nation by Splendid Work of One Man

Alfred King, Civil War Veteran, Fought for More Than a Decade to Rouse Public Interest in the Sunken Battleship and to Force Congress Into Action.

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HEN an obscure citizen sets out to wake the conscience of a nation, how shall he begin?

In the little town of Kearny, N. J., there lives a man whose name to Alfred King. He has no model, insignia or any other emblem of valor. He is a soldier and fought with credit in the civil war, to the rank of Chatain. He is unassuming, modest.

Alfred King is a part of the unheralded undercurrent that has raised the Maine. As a proof of this, you have but to go to this suburb of Newark. There, in front of the Kearny Town Hall, on a pedestal of Maine granite, bearing a shell of the battleship Maine, is a copper plate with the following inscription:

"U. S. S. Maine." Havana Harbor, 1896-1912, Presented to the Town of Kearny, N. J. lecognition of the Eminent Public Services of

Should you want to learn something of the great importance of triffes, how to rouse public sentiment, the power of an everyday citizen in the American public or the duty of an individual to the nation, perhaps Alfred King might be able to tell you something about it.

Forest street, which is a little frame killed outright, others were penned behouse, a half size larger than a cottage, tween decks by the tangle of wreckage house, a half size larger than a cottage, some evening you would find this man, and drowned by the immediate sinking of the la seventy years old and weers a gray, military heard, of the sort that you usually associate with veterans, the looks directly at you with steady He looks directly at you with steady sign or the cunning act of a Cuban blue eyes, from behind nose-glasses of sympathizer, this fact remains: At once

which one lens is cracked. His house was the headquarters for a turned to war. movement that created public sentiment. A naval court of inquiry was organ-which was answered by the U. S. Gov-was put to work to ascertain the hands to right a wrong of twelve years able means was employed to gain an

How It All Came About.

Affred King read the story of the Mains, in the spirit of any other citizen, After twenty-three days of continuous in the newspapers, which in brief was labor and research, on March 21, the

isse, as had been arranged between the inited States and the Spanish Governments. Her arrival was marked with no special incident beyond the exchange of the customary salutes and ceremonial visits. She anchored there for three tended her stay.

At 8 o'clock on the evening of Feb. 15 conclusions of the court were:

"That the loss of the Court was in any respect due to fault of negligence of the officers or members of the craw; that the ship was destroyed by the exploition of a summarine mina, which caused the partial explosion of two or more of her torward meganisms, and that no evidence had been obtained fixing the responsibility for the destruction of the distance upon any person or party sons." Harbor on the twenty-fifth of January, The conclusions of the court were:

everything was reported secure and all Sons."

Thereupon the United States went to

were singularly beautiful that night. Newton, the bugler, who was rather "Remember the Maine." given to funciful effects, was at his Affred King, like other citizens, best. The echoes of the lingering notes thought about these facts of the Maine. floated back with unusual distinctness and the sations buried with the ship, from Morro Castle. Unwittingly, he about it. But after the war he did not

plosions. And after a bursting and Palma, was once a school-teacher in crashing sound, followed by intense blackness and smoke. Capt. Sigsbee a flag-pole one Fourth of July. When thund his way up the inclined deck, into Palma became Freedom the still exthe starboard cabin. He groped changed letters with Alfred King, who through the cabin, and along the pas- was Secretary of the Arlington Flag sage to the outer door. At the place at the cabin door, met him with the customary salute and, as though he was making an ordinary remark, said:

"Excuse me, eir, but I have to inform you that the ship is blown up, and is you that the ship is blown up, and is feet of decorating the battleship feet of decorating sage to the outer door. At the turning Association. So that as early at May

From that moment the orderly, as

From that moment the orderly, as

And at another time this Fresident
reported by the Captain, remained by
him with untiring zeal and watchfulhim with untiring zeal and watchfulheas until the ship was abandoned.

American Government for allowing the comrades he left in the wrock. Two obstacle to navigation.

hundred and thirty-one men were the pictures of the abandoned bathilleg; twenty-four bodies were recovgreed immediately. Leter one-hundred sion, did not arouse Alfred King to acand forty-four bodies were added to tion. But comething size did. One day
the list of recovered, leaving sixty- the postures handed him a second.

If you would go to his home at 31 three not accounted for. Some were

the popular mind in the United States

Spanish Government was given oppor court of inquiry gave its verdict to the The battleship Maine entered Havana Chief Executive. William McKinley.

was silent on board.

Shortly after taps—ten minutes after so clock—Capt. Charles D. Sigubes, comclet the world knows. Our sistoring in his claim always will be that we fought to the dying notes of the bugie, which to the dying notes of the bugie, which were singularly beautiful that night.

Thereupon the United States went to war with Spain, with what far-reaching results the world knows. Our sistoring the war claim always will be that we fought for a spiemdid humanitarian principle, but tradition will say that the ill-dated selformen of the Maine died to free

was playing his swan song, for, thirty stop thinking about it. In thet, his continues later, Newton, the bugler, was slogan was "Remember the Maine!"

Now it happened that the first President there were two distinct ex-

Pleasant Valley, N. J. King had met him when his G. A. R. post dedicated





"U. S. Battleship Maine Falvage Company. Incorporated in the District of Colum-

bia to remove the Maine from Havans Harbor by authority of Cube and the United States." The enterprise was to assume the

of a pay-an-you-enter spectacle proposition for swilling the profits of those who world get in on the ground floor and buy stock in the company. It was capitalised at \$600,000. Their purpose was to raise the Maine and ex-hibit her as a peep-all for the morbid. Stock subscriptions were solicited and soon the company had a paid-in capital

had practically relinquished all interest in the Maine, as the following letter uninquiry by the Cuban Government with reference to the wreck of the Maine,

"The question presented has been considered by the proper executive department, and the conclusion reached that whatever authority or rights the Government may formerly have had in the wreck above referred to, may properly be considered as having lapsed in favor of the Government of Cuba."

The company's deed properly re-corded in the District of Columbia, they

tomb of the heroic dead was to be open property.

And further, the Republic agreed to "A. King."

A "Show" Proposition.

It was a prospectus of a combine known sixty days from the beginning of work as the

around it, dry out the inclosure, and visitors would be admitted for a fee. That the show could go en day and night was assured. For wasn't the cli-mate of Havana perpetual summer? And wasn't the tourist season eight or nine months long? Besides, the Amerigether with a million or more of Cusurrounding districts of the Island. might represent an income of several thousand dollars in admission fees alone! More than the cost of the cof-

Already advertising concerns were of-fering lucrative prices for space on the walls of the cofferdam, inside and out. technicalities. Once when William Sul-

hausted its usefulness in Havana Har-ocr as an attraction the ship would be floated upon her own or a false bottom and exhibited in the principal ports of Representative Douglas of Ohio, in the United States. The income from rent squeiches, remarked: this source alone, they conceded, would "If there is any commercial matter

The Maine Forgotten.

And, mark you, the starting point of the Cuban Government. In fact, they would be accessories before and after

iting subscriptions for the beginning of at once. But the influx of foreign visiting subscriptions for the beginning of at once. But the influx of foreign visiting subscriptions for the beginning of at once. But the influx of foreign visiting subscriptions for the beginning of its possible of the subscription of supplies, machinery, tools.

It was to be a fine show business portation of supplies, machinery, tools, which tourists and visitors would flock duty free. Workmen sould be brought room table and wrote and wrote and wrote to as the greatest spectacle of all in under a contract to Havans. No wrote to Grand Army men, who were to be levied upon any of the taxes were to be levied upon any of the taxes were signed "Veteral" and some thing it high time to quit 'rememberius thing it high the thing it high time to quit 'rememberius thi mere \$5,000 one-half of which was paid at once. But the influx of foreign vis-

Ah, the pamplet offered many inchinery, arms, munitions of war, coal keep his constituents in patricula read ductments. Money would be made in and other supplies and objects that ing for some time.

Wreck in whole or in part, from Haven and sold of the material and of sold master of the United States the distorted wreck of the battleship, that the spirit of one of the paper when the property recovered as the trus
test of the hulk, equipment, manemough literature on the subject to disconting and the subject to

they from he may be a considered that the second company was able to sell of the abovement to washed company to the second company t

The Voice of the Press.

Petition after petition and resolution
The result of this campaign, which
satter resolution were added to the recgained momentum like an avalanche, unords of Congress. And the name of
til even Washington took heed, dealt a
Afterd King permeates these pages with

soon the company had a paid-in capital swalls of the cofferdam, inside and out.

Walls of the cofferdam, inside and out.

Walls of the cofferdam, inside and out.

Walls of the cofferdam, inside and out.

See a rose in the House and stated on a grainer By quietly going over to Cuba the foremost successful show enterpoint of order, "Mr. Speaker, I wish and surroung to pay that republic \$5.00 prises in the world to take charge of some little attention on the matter of the wind in the Maine and its yet uthonored heroes," Mr. Cannon is said to have re-

the whole scheme was the hearty co-operation extended to this company by

And further, the Republic agreed to "A. King." These Grand Army men one already percent a deed, giving good and sufficient into Mr. Douglas's home district the inscription:

Affect King and the Authorn Members of Company & 17th Members Regimest 1st, Vol., Feb. 12th, 1962. Fredericksburg to Appointfuz. He does not care to shine in the lime-

The Silent Bullet

An Absolutely NEW Type of Detective-Story

The result of the compaign, which gained momentum lites a realizable, we can be congruent and the name of street the to the rempany profileation to the to the rempany profileation to the to the rempany profileation to the results of the desired filts of the control of the street of the desired results of the remains of

A Widow and a Billion Dollars. E of the fillion-dollar robbery have in five Test of the fillion-dollar robbery have in five Test of the fillion-dollar robbery have in five Test.

The tillion are eatlest because in right to make it and the test of the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the test of the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the test of the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the fillion are eatlest because in right to make the fillion are eatlest because the